

REMARKS

Independent claim 17 stands rejected as being obvious from Cinbis et al. (US 5,897,577) in view of Juran et al. (US 6,016,447).

As set forth in amended claim 17, a lead status event is determined based upon the processing of specified collected data. Most significantly, the processing of the collected data is in accordance with an algorithm having an integrated set of rules to determine if a lead status event has occurred, wherein each rule of the set applies a specific determination criterion to a particular aspect of the collected data. In the written description of the application, such an algorithm is exemplified by Fig. 6, which is described in pages 24-29. As set forth there, a set of LSM rules relating to various aspects of collected data is embodied in the algorithm. These LSM rules are integrated together within the algorithm as shown in the illustrated flowchart.

In contrast to the subject matter of amended claim 17, Cinbis merely discloses lead impedance determination to check for open circuits or short circuits (see Abstract). Cinbis then simply stores the collected data for later use. See col. 8, lines 26-35. Contrary to the contention in the office action, Cinbis does not concern stimulation threshold data collection.

Juran is relied upon only for its alleged disclosure of the collection of time from implant data. Juran discloses nothing in regard to lead status monitoring, Juran is irrelevant.

The combination of Cinbis and Juran fails to result in the claimed combination of amended claim 17. Accordingly, claim 17 is patentable over the Cinbis-Juran combination. Further, the dependent claims are also patentable over any of the combination of references that includes Cinbis and Juran.

Amended claim 17 is directed to a novel and non-obvious method of lead status monitoring wherein not only are data collections made of relevant parameters, the data is processed in accordance with an algorithm having a set of rules that inter-relate the analysis of various collected data to result in a determination of a lead status event.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney to attend to those matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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